

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A chemically synthesized modified double stranded ~~short~~ interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecule, wherein:

a) the siNA molecule comprises a ~~first~~ sense strand and a ~~second~~ separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

~~b) the first strand comprises a sense region and the second strand comprises an antisense region;~~

[[c]]~~b~~) each strand is 19 to 29 nucleotides in length;

[[d]]~~c~~) the first strand, second strand, or both first and second strands of the siNA comprise[[s]] two or more ~~than one modified nucleoside~~ nucleotides each having a Northern conformation modification; and

[[e]]~~d~~) at least two of said modifications are different from each other.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The siNA nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein said siNA nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.

21. (Currently amended) The siNA nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein said Northern conformation nucleotides modifications are selected from the group consisting of locked nucleic acid (LNA) nucleotides; 2'-methoxyethoxy nucleotides; 2'-methyl-thio-ethyl nucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-chloro nucleotides, 2'-azido nucleotides, 2'-O-

trifluoromethyl ~~nucleotides~~, 2'-O-ethyl-trifluoromethoxy ~~nucleotides~~, 2'-O-difluoromethoxy-ethoxy ~~nucleotides~~, 4'-thio ~~nucleotides~~ and 2'-O-methyl ~~nucleotides~~ modifications.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein the first sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein the second antisense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 3'-end.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said terminal cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein said terminal cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.

29. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the purine nucleotides in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

30. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides ~~present~~ in the sense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

31. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides ~~of in~~ said antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluor pyrimidine nucleotides.

32. (Currently amended) The ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the purine nucleotides ~~of in~~ said antisense ~~region~~ strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

33. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the ~~siNA~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 18 in a ~~[[n]]~~ pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.